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## SUPERINTENDENTS' SOCIETY REGISTRY NEEDED

DEAR EDITOR: Your suggestion in the October JOURNAL that the Superintendents' Society conduct, a registry where hospitals and training schools could be "rated" is a most valuable one, and one which to my mind the society would do well to consider seriously.

Very often when considering a position in a distant city or state, the only available sources of information are the managers of the institution or the physicians connected therewith, and in either case a perfectly unbiased opinion is hard to get. If, on taking such a position, a nurse finds that she has made a mistake, she must do one of two unpleasant things, stay on at the expense of at least some of her self-respect (possibly saving the remnant by thinking she can improve conditions), or resign, with the prospect of financial loss to herself, the possibility of being considered a failure by people (even members of her own profession) who do not understand the situation, and with the certainty of a lessened faith in humanity. All of which might be avoided by our having such a registry as you suggest.

On the much-talked-of subject, "The Care of Male Patients," I would like to say to C. R. K., "Them's my sentiments too," and to ask the opposition whether we are using our best efforts for moral prophylaxis, which as members of the Associated Alumnae we stand pledged to do, when we ask a pupil nurse to catheterize a young man in the possession of his senses. Personally I consider that in this matter I *am* "my brother's keeper."

H. W. K.

## SUGGESTIONS

DEAR EDITOR: My experience in the handling of nervous little girls may be a help to some of my sister nurses.

One little girl had been very ill with diphtheria and scarlet fever with complications. I am sorry to say I was obliged to class the mother among the complications, as she interfered as much as possible with the doctor's treatment and my care. When the doctor suggested my giving the child eggs in different forms, the mother told me, in the child's hearing, that I might save myself the trouble as Mary never ate eggs. The little voice chimed in with, "Yes, I don't eat eggs, I only like pork chops." My answer was, "I know, little one, you never did like eggs; but don't you know that sometimes when little girls have diphtheria they change all over and like the things they never could eat and dislike the things they used to care for?" I thought I was quite safe in adding the last half to counteract the effects of the pork chops, especially as in her delirium she had several times mentioned "poke chops." My suggestion worked like a charm. Thereafter eggs were my greatest asset in the building up the frail little fever-worn body.

Another little girl had no appetite, no desire for food no matter how attractively served. She was three years old. My most successful method in her case was playing "barn yard." Her ears had to be pulled a wee bit to open the barn doors. Then each spoonful was either oats for the horses, grass for the cows, milk for the calves, and so on, until all the animals were fed and the dish empty. For a year she was never known to be hungry or ask for food. She was well in every respect, but nervous and not well nourished.